

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, Congresswoman Slaughter is a strong advocate for the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes.

Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario and Superior contain more than 18 percent of the world's, and more than 90 percent of North America's, fresh surface water. Combined, they supply drinking water to more than 35 million people. What's more, millions of people benefit from the commerce and business that depend on the waters of the Great Lakes. The Lakes are not only a prized natural resource, but also a significant economic engine for our country.

Louise has been a tireless advocate for the Great Lakes over the years. In the past several years, the Great Lakes finally began to receive the sort of investment and attention for which Louise has long advocated, with the implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). GLRI is an interagency effort to target the most significant problems in the region, including invasive aquatic species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment.

GLRI is using outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing them. Through GLRI, EPA and other Federal agencies will coordinate State, tribal, local, and industry to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes. Louise has spoken out in favor of fully funding GLRI at \$475 million in fiscal year 2010, and similar levels in future years, adding up to billions of dollars of investment in the Great Lakes over the life of the program.

Louise is an original co-sponsor of H.R. 4755, the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act (S. 3073). This bill formally authorizes GLRI, would reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy program, increasing its authorized funding to \$150 million/year, and would reauthorize the Great Lakes National Program Office.

Louise and the Great Lakes Task Force have also paid close attention to the threat presented by Asian carp, an invasive species that has spread throughout rivers connected to the Great Lakes, which can grow to four feet in length, and can weigh up to 100 pounds each. If the Asian carp reach Lake Michigan, they will almost certainly spread to the rest of the Great Lakes and cause severe damage to the regional economy and ecosystem, wiping out other species by consuming their food supply, even jumping out of the water and hitting boaters and fisherman when scared by boat motors. Estimates of the economic costs of invasion run into the billions.

The Congresswoman has been actively and personally engaged in this issue, speaking to EPA, the Army Corps, New York State, and other officials numerous times, and helping to coordinate the government's efforts on this issue. In addition, she has recruited her colleagues to apply pressure to the relevant agencies to move past "studies" and actually start to put solutions in place.

As a co-chair of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, she has helped make sure money was available for the anti-carp efforts and helped convince the Army Corps of Engineers to cooperate with EPA when the two agencies were at an impasse over how and when to use funds made available. In addition, she helped secure authorizing language in Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007 to give the Army Corps authority to deal with the carp situation, and that authorization has now paid off.

Louise has spoken to and written to the relevant Federal agencies on numerous occasions, urging them to act more aggressively to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. On September 30, 2009, the House and Senate Great Lakes Task Force led a letter with 24 of their colleagues

to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Sam Hamilton urging him to administratively list Bighead carp as injurious under the Lacey Act. Such a listing would prevent the importation and interstate commerce of live Bighead carp.

On December 17, 2009, the House and Senate Great Lakes Task Force led a letter with 50 of their colleagues to the Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, the Coast Guard, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, all of which have a role in the Asian carp/dispersal barrier issue, to urge them to take more aggressive action to prevent the movement of the carp into the Great Lakes. These actions included closing the Chicago locks, using piscicides, increasing the voltage and conducting additional monitoring.

On January 21, 2010, the House & Senate Great Lakes Task Force led a letter with six of their colleagues to Director of the Office of Management and Budget Peter Orszag and Jo-Ellen Darcy, with the Army Corps of Engineers, to urge them to identify funds in Fiscal Year 2010 to purchase pesticides to treat any waters North of the electric dispersal barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal that are contain Asian carp.